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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
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MONTANA SHIPS OVER THREE MILLION CHRISTMAS TREES AGAIN IN 1951

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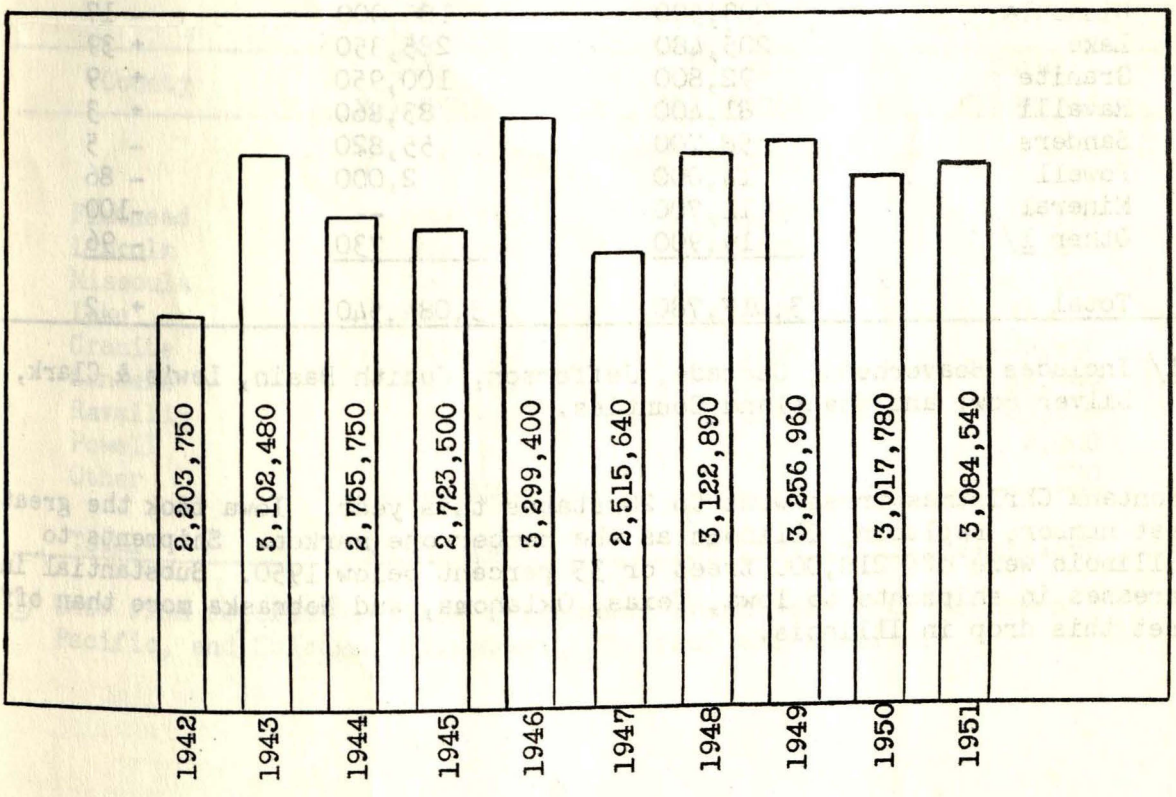
For the fourth consecutive year Montana exported more than three million trees, thus maintaining its importance as a Christmas tree producing area; 1951 was the sixth year of the last decade that Montana has supplied the Nation's market with over three million trees.

Table 1. Montana Christmas tree shipments 1942-51



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Ninety-two percent of the trees exported from Montana in 1951 were shipped from Flathead, Lincoln, Missoula, and Lake Counties. The number of trees moved from Flathead and Lake Counties exceeded 1950 by 10 and 39 percent, respectively. On the other hand, shipments from Lincoln and Missoula Counties fell somewhat below the previous year. Flathead County continued to lead and accounted for approximately 46 percent of the 1951 shipments.

This is the first year since 1940 that shipments from Lincoln County fell below one million trees. A severe blight attack that started in 1947 and continued heavy cutting without planned management for future Christmas tree production probably account for most of the decline.

Table 2. Comparison of Christmas trees shipped 1950 to 1951 - Montana

County	1950	1951	Change 1950 to 1951
	Number of trees		Percent
Flathead	1,283,250	1,417,150	+ 10
Lincoln	1,027,050	953,680	- 7
Missoula	223,500	185,000	- 17
Lake	205,480	285,350	+ 39
Granite	92,800	100,950	+ 9
Ravalli	81,400	83,860	+ 3
Sanders	58,700	55,820	- 5
Powell	14,000	2,000	- 86
Mineral	11,700	--	-100
Other 1/	19,900	730	- 96
Total	3,017,780	3,084,540	+ 2

1/ Includes Beaverhead, Cascade, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis & Clark, Silver Bow, and Wheatland Counties.

Montana Christmas trees went to 20 states this year. Iowa took the greatest number, replacing Illinois as the number one market. Shipments to Illinois were off 218,000 trees or 35 percent below 1950. Substantial increases in shipments to Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska more than offset this drop in Illinois.

Table 3. Leading ten state markets for Montana Christmas trees

1950		1951	
State	Trees	State	Trees
Illinois	617,500	Iowa	427,500
Iowa	375,250	Illinois	399,000
Texas	289,750	Texas	370,500
Missouri	244,250	Kansas	261,250
Kansas	242,250	Missouri	251,750
Oklahoma	204,250	Oklahoma	247,000
Nebraska	194,750	Nebraska	242,250
Minnesota	109,250	South Dakota	76,000
Indiana	76,000	Indiana	71,250
North Dakota	73,750	North Dakota	71,250
Total	2,427,000		2,417,750

Table 4. Christmas tree shipments by railroad and truck - 1951

County	Rail shipments 1/	Truck shipments	Total shipments
	--Number of trees--		
Flathead	1,258,750	158,400	1,417,150
Lincoln	893,000	60,680	953,680
Missoula	180,500	4,500	185,000
Lake	251,750	33,600	285,350
Granite	99,750	1,200	100,950
Sanders	47,500	8,320	55,820
Ravalli	52,250	31,610	83,860
Powell	--	2,000	2,000
Other	--	730	730
Total	2,783,500	301,040	3,084,540

1/ Data from reports by three railroads: Great Northern, Northern Pacific, and Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific.

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